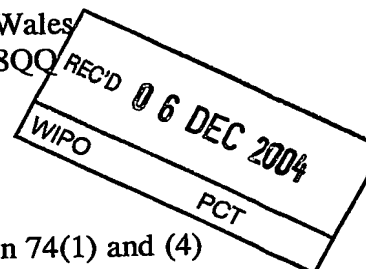


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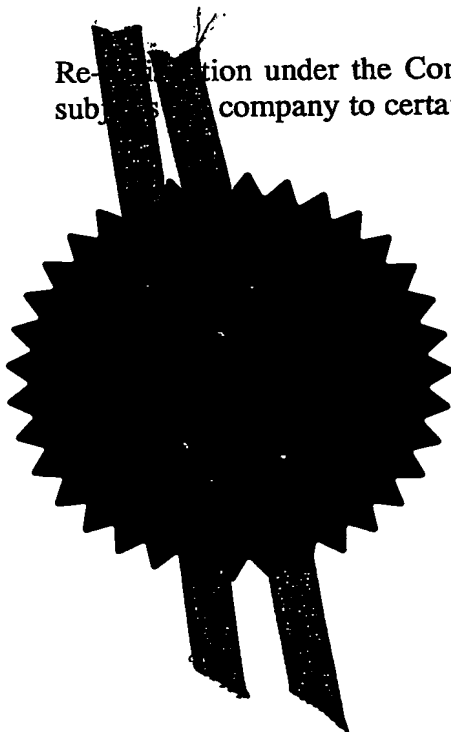


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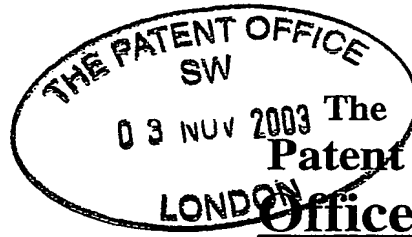
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JNR/DAB/PB60534P

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3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (*underline all surnames*)Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

Glaxo Group Limited
Glaxo Wellcome House, Berkeley Avenue,
Greenford, Middlesex UB6 0NN, Great Britain

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

United Kingdom

473587003

4. Title of the invention

A Hand-Held Capsule Device

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

Corporate Intellectual Property

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (*including the postcode*)

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Corporate Intellectual Property (CN9 25.1)
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7960782003

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Country Priority application number Date of filing
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Description

17

Claim(s)

5

Abstract

1

Drawings

15

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Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

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We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

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J N Rice

Date 30-Oct-03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

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A Hand-Held Capsule Device

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a hand-held capsule device and is particularly, but not exclusively, concerned with such a device for use in a dry powder inhaler in which the capsules each contain an inhalable medicament powder.

10

Background of the Invention

 Dry powder inhalation devices ("DPI" for short) are well established for use in treating respiratory
15 diseases. As an example, there may be mentioned the DISKUS® device of GlaxoSmithKline. In general, the pharmaceutical composition is formulated as a respirable powder and the powder is divided into a plurality of unit doses, each dose contained in its
20 own sealed enclosure, for example blisters on a dosing strip. In use of the inhaler, the enclosures are opened, one at a time, by an opening mechanism of the inhalation device and the powder dose entrained into a patient's respiratory tract by an airflow generated
25 through the device by the patient inhaling at a mouthpiece of the device.

 The present invention proposes novel concepts having potential application in a DPI.

Summary of the Invention

According to the present invention there is
5 provided a hand-held device having a housing, a track
in the housing, a chain of capsules in the track and a
conveying mechanism adapted to convey the chain along
the track.

10 The hand-held device may be adapted for use as a
component of an inhalation device for delivering
medicament to a patient, in which case each capsule
contains an inhalable medicament powder.

15 Preferred features of the invention are set forth
in the subordinate claims appended hereto, as well as
in the non-limiting exemplary embodiments of the
invention hereinafter described with reference to the
accompanying FIGURES of drawings.

20

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIGURE 1 illustrates a first hand-held device
according to the present invention.

25

FIGURE 2 is an exploded perspective view of the
first hand-held device without a capsule chain for
better understanding.

FIGURE 3 is a plan view of the first hand-held device with the upper face removed to better show a capsule chain in the device.

5 FIGURE 4 is a cross-sectional side view of the first hand-held device along line IV-IV in FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 5 is a schematic view illustrating a conveying mechanism for the capsule chain provided in
10 the first hand-held device.

FIGURES 6A-6F are a sequence of plan views corresponding to FIGURE 3 showing the capsule chain as it moves through a complete circuit in the first hand-
15 held device.

FIGURE 7 is a plan view of a second hand-held device according to the present invention with its upper face removed to better show a capsule chain in
20 the device.

FIGURE 8 is a cross-sectional side view of the second hand-held device along line VIII-VIII in FIGURE
7.

25 FIGURE 9 is a cross-sectional underneath view of the second hand-held device along line IX-IX in FIGURE 8.

30 FIGURE 10 is a side view of one of the capsules in the capsule chain in the second hand-held device.

FIGURE 11 is an end view of the capsule of FIGURE 10 on arrow X.

5 FIGURE 12 is an end view of the capsule of FIGURE 10 on arrow Y.

FIGURE 13 is a longitudinal section through two linked capsules of the capsule chain of the second
10 hand-held device.

FIGURES 14A-E are a sequence of plan views corresponding to FIGURE 7 showing the capsule chain as it moves through a complete circuit in the second
15 hand-held device.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

FIGURES 1-6 show a first hand-held device 1 in
20 accordance with the present invention. The device 1 has a housing 3, in this embodiment made from a plastics material, optionally formed by moulding. The housing 3 has an upper face 5, a lower face 7 and an endless side face 9 which connects the outer
25 peripheral edges 11, 13 of the upper and lower faces 5, 7, respectively. In this way, as shown in FIGURE 2, the upper, lower and side faces 5, 7, 9 bound an inner
~~volume 13 of the housing 1~~

receives an endless chain 19 of unlinked capsules 21. The track 17 has a path which is disposed adjacent the outer periphery of the housing 3 other than at a generally U-shaped fold section 23 of the track 17 which extends inwardly. The fold section 23 forms a loop or chicane in the track 17. The plan view of FIGURE 3 shows that the fold section 23 gives the track a closed W-shape configuration.

The upper and lower faces 5,7 respectively present a roof 18 and a base 20 of the track 17. Moreover, the sides of the track 17 are presented by an inner surface 10 of the housing side face 9 and an opposing side face 24 of an inner wall structure 25 in the housing inner volume 15. The inner wall structure 25 may be of a plastics material, for instance made by moulding. Moreover, the inner wall structure 25 may be integrally formed with one of the other parts of the housing 3.

As will be seen from FIGURES 3 and 6, the capsules 21 are the same, with each comprising a hollow, generally cylindrical tube 26. In this embodiment the capsules 21 are made from a plastics material, preferably by moulding. The capsules 21 are disposed upright in the track 17 in side-by-side relation. The capsules 21 are adapted to receive a powder content therein, for example a medicament powder, and may take the form shown and described in Applicant's co-pending UK patent application No. 0227128.6 filed on 20 November 2002, the entire

content of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Where the capsules 21 each contain a dose of an inhalable medicament powder, the device 1 may take the form of a dry powder inhaler (DPI), as indicated by the provision of a mouthpiece 28 on the housing 3. The mouthpiece 28 could be replaced by another form of nozzle, for instance a nozzle sized and shaped for insertion into a nasal cavity.

Each capsule 21 may have a length (height) in the range of about 5mm to about 15mm and an outer diameter in the range of about 3mm to about 8mm. In other words, the capsules 21 may be referred to as a "microcapsule". Such capsules 21 may be suited for holding a unit dose of a medicament powder in the range of about $2\mu\text{g}$ to about 30mg. The capsules 21 may contain a unit dose of pure active drug substance, or a blend of pure active drug substances, in the range of about $2\mu\text{g}$ to about 250 μg (i.e. no bulk filler), or a bulked out unit dose of a medicament powder up to about 30mg.

For a small unit dose of medicament powder, for instance in the range of about 2-250 μg , it is preferable for the capsules 21 to have a length height in the range of about 5mm to about 15mm and an outer diameter in the range of about 3mm to about 8mm.

Referring particularly to FIGURE 5, the housing 3 is provided with a conveying mechanism for conveying the capsule chain 19 around the track 17. The conveying mechanism comprises a gear train 27 comprising six spur gear wheels 29a-f rotatably mounted in the housing 3. The gear wheels 29a-f in the embodiment are of a plastics material, optionally formed by moulding.

One of the gear wheels 29a (hereinafter the "actuator gear wheel") protrudes from the housing side face 9 thereby enabling a user of the device 1 to cause rotation thereof with one of the fingers (e.g. thumb) of their hand holding the device 1 (see FIGURE 1).

The other gear wheels 29b-f (hereinafter the "auxiliary gear wheels") mesh with selected ones of the other auxiliary gear wheels and the actuator gear wheel 29a such that rotation of the actuator gear wheel 29a results in concurrent rotation of each of the auxiliary gear wheels 29b-f. Specifically, in this embodiment the central auxiliary gear wheel 29f meshes with each of the other auxiliary gear wheels 29b-e, which can be considered as satellite auxiliary gear wheels. Moreover, one of the satellite auxiliary gear wheels 29b meshes with the thumbwheel 29a. In this way, rotation of the thumbwheel 29a causes rotation of each auxiliary gear wheel 29b-f.

As will be further seen from FIGURES 4 and 5, each auxiliary gear wheel 29b-f is rotatably connected to a star wheel or a sprocket 31b-f. More particularly, each sprocket 31b-f has a spindle 33b-f which is mounted at one end thereof to the associated auxiliary gear wheel 29b-f at its axis of rotation. The other end of each spindle 33b-f is rotatably mounted in a recess in the roof 18 (the recess 34f for the centrally-located sprocket 33f is shown in FIGURE 4). In this embodiment, the sprockets 31b-f are formed of a plastics material, optionally by moulding.

As will be appreciated, when the auxiliary gear wheels 29b-f are driven by the actuator gear wheel 29a, this results in rotation of the sprockets 31b-f. As will be appreciated, the sprockets 31b-f all rotate concurrently.

As will be understood from FIGURE 2, each sprocket 31b-f is positioned at a bend 35b-f in the track 17 such that its teeth 37 engage the capsules 21 at the respective bend. Accordingly, when the sprockets 31b-f rotate, in response to the thumbwheel 29a being turned to cause rotation of the auxiliary gear wheels 29b-f, the sprocket teeth 37 advance the capsule chain 19 in the track 17.

FIGURES 4A-F show a full circle of the capsule chain 19 in the track 17, and the sprockets 31b-f are shown in the track 17 at the respective bends 35b-f. The sprockets 31b-f are shown in the track 17 at the respective bends 35b-f, and the sprockets 31b-f are shown in the track 17 at the respective bends 35b-f.

capsule movement. As shown by the arrows in FIGURES 6A-F, the rotation of the thumbwheel 29a in one rotative sense causes the capsule chain 19 to be driven by the conveying mechanism through the track 17 in the opposite rotative sense.

It will be appreciated that the provision of the fold section 23 in the track 17 provides the track with an increased path length compared to the case where the track 17 simply follows the outer periphery of the housing 3. Expressed another way, the fold section 23 gives the track 17 a compact, space-saving configuration. Accordingly, the track 17 is able to receive more capsules 21. When the device 1 is a dry powder inhaler, for instance, this means that the device is able to carry more doses of the powder medicament meaning that it will not need to be replaced by a patient so frequently.

It will also be appreciated by the skilled reader in the art that each gear wheel 29a-f in the gear train 27 could be replaced by a smooth-surfaced wheel with drive being transmitted along the train, and hence to the sprockets 31b-f, by frictional engagement between the wheels, i.e. through rolling contact between the wheels at respective pitch points.

In FIGURES 7-14 there is shown a second hand-held device 101 in accordance with the present invention. The second hand-held device 101 corresponds closely to the first hand-held device 1. Accordingly, like

features are identified by like reference numerals and no detailed description of the common features in the second device 101 will be given.

5 In the second device 101 the track 117 has a capsule chain 119 which is constituted by chain-linked capsules 121. That is to say, the capsules 121 in the chain 119 are linked together, not detached as in the first device 1. More particularly, the capsules 121
10 are linked into the chain 119 such that the chain 119 can be bent to go round the bends 135b-f of the track 117.

FIGURES 10-12 show one of the capsules 121 in the capsule chain 119 in greater detail. The hollow
15 cylindrical tube 126 has an upper end 161 and a lower end 163 which is spaced longitudinally from the upper end 161. The tube 126 is provided with a foot 165 which extends radially outwardly from the lower end
20 163 and has an upstanding circular boss 167.

As shown in FIGURE 13, the foot 165 provides the linkage for the capsule chain 119 inasmuch as the boss 167 of each capsule 121 is pluggable into the lower
25 end of the lumen 169 of an adjacent capsule 121 in the chain 119 so as to link the capsules 121 together.

Moreover, the relative dimensioning of the boss 167

~~and the lumen 169 enables the capsules 121 to slide~~
~~into the lumen 169 of adjacent capsules 121 in the~~
~~chain 119 so as to link the capsules 121 together.~~
~~and the lumen 169 enables the capsules 121 to slide~~
~~into the lumen 169 of adjacent capsules 121 in the~~
~~chain 119 so as to link the capsules 121 together.~~

Preferably, the boss 167 has an outer diameter d1 which is equal to, or marginally less than, the inner diameter d2 of the circular lumen 169 of the tube 126.

5 At the upper end 161 of the cylindrical tube 126 there is provided a radial lip segment 162. As will be appreciated from FIGURES 7 and 13, the purpose of the lip segments 162 is to prevent, or substantially prevent, the capsules 121 tilting about their
10 longitudinal axes when linked into the capsule chain 119 by bearing against the neighbouring capsules 121 in the chain 119.

 Further information on the capsules 121, and on
15 different forms they may take, is contained in Applicant's co-pending UK patent application No. 0308969.5 filed on 17 April 2003, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

20 The capsules 121 in the second device 101 may be of corresponding dimensions to those mentioned previously for the capsules 21 of the first device 1. Moreover, the lumen 169 of each capsule 121 may have an inner diameter d2 in the range of about 1mm to
25 about 6mm. For a small unit dose of pharmaceutical powder, for instance in the range of about 2-250µg, it is preferable for the lumen inner diameter d2 to be in the range of about 1mm to about 3mm, more preferably about 2mm.

30

As shown in FIGURE 7, for example, the inner surface of the track 117 in the second device 101 is not defined by a central insert, as in the first device 1. Instead, the second device 101 has a plurality of generally U-shaped clips 151a-c clipped thereinto. The resilient outer limb 153a-c of each clip 151a-c defines the side sections of the track 117. Moreover, on the inside of each of the track bends 135b-e is disposed a pillar 155b-e about which the capsule chain 119 is wound.

Having the capsules 121 linked together into the chain 119 enables the conveying mechanism of the device 101 to be simplified compared to that used in the first device 1. In this embodiment, the conveying mechanism comprises a single sprocket 131 for advancing the capsule chain 119. For convenience, the sprocket 131 is located on the inside of the bend 135f of the fold section 123 of the track 117. The spindle 133 of the sprocket 131 is rotatably connected to a knob 139, preferably having a knurled outer surface, disposed under the lower face 107 of the housing 103. Thus, rotation of the knob 139 causes rotation of the sprocket 131 and advancement of the capsule chain 119 in the track 117.

FIGURES 14A-E show the sequence of movement of the capsule chain 119 through a complete circuit of the device 101. A sequence of rotation of the knob 139 is indicated by arrows in FIGURES 14A-E.

circulates the track 117 in an opposite rotative sense compared to the knob 139.

Appropriate medicaments for the medicament powder
 5 for use in the present invention may be selected from,
 for example, analgesics, e.g., codeine,
 dihydromorphine, ergotamine, fentanyl or morphine;
 anginal preparations, e.g., diltiazem; antiallergics,
 e.g., cromoglycate (e.g. as the sodium salt),
 10 ketotifen or nedocromil (e.g. as the sodium salt);
 antiinfectives e.g., cephalosporins, penicillins,
 streptomycin, sulphonamides, tetracyclines and
 pentamidine; antihistamines, e.g., methapyrilene;
 anti- inflammatories, e.g., beclomethasone (e.g. as
 15 the dipropionate ester), fluticasone (e.g. as the
 propionate ester), flunisolide, budesonide,
 rofleponide, mometasone e.g. as the furoate ester),
 ciclesonide, triamcinolone (e.g. as the acetonide) or
 6 α , 9 α -difluoro-11 β -hydroxy-16 α -methyl-3-oxo-17 α -
 20 propionyloxy-androsta-1,4-diene-17 β -carbothioic acid S-
 (2-oxo-tetrahydro-furan-3-yl) ester; antitussives,
 e.g., noscapine; bronchodilators, e.g., albuterol
 (e.g. as free base or sulphate), salmeterol (e.g. as
 xinafoate), ephedrine, adrenaline, fenoterol (e.g. as
 25 hydrobromide), formoterol (e.g. as fumarate),
 isoprenaline, metaproterenol, phenylephrine,
 phenylpropanolamine, pirbuterol (e.g. as acetate),
 reproterol (e.g. as hydrochloride), rimiterol,
 terbutaline (e.g. as sulphate), isoetharine,
 30 tulobuterol or 4-hydroxy-7-[2-[[2-[[3-(2-
 phenylethoxy)propyl]sulfonyl]ethyl]amino]-ethyl-2(3H)-

benzothiazolone; adenosine 2a agonists, e.g. 2R,3R,4S,5R)-2-[6-Amino-2-(1S-hydroxymethyl-2-phenylethylamino)-purin-9-yl]-5-(2-ethyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl)-tetrahydro-furan-3,4-diol (e.g. as maleate); α_4 integrin inhibitors e.g. (2S)-3-[4-({[4-(aminocarbonyl)-1-piperidinyl]carbonyl}oxy)phenyl]-2-(((2S)-4-methyl-2-{[2-(2-methylphenoxy) acetyl]amino}-pentanoyl)amino) propanoic acid (e.g. as free acid or potassium salt), diuretics, e.g., amiloride; anticholinergics, e.g., ipratropium (e.g. as bromide), tiotropium, atropine or oxitropium; hormones, e.g., cortisone, hydrocortisone or prednisolone; xanthines, e.g., aminophylline, choline theophyllinate, lysine theophyllinate or theophylline; therapeutic proteins and peptides, e.g., insulin or glucagon; vaccines, diagnostics, and gene therapies. It will be clear to a person skilled in the art that, where appropriate, the medicaments may be used in the form of salts, (e.g., as alkali metal or amine salts or as acid addition salts) or as esters (e.g., lower alkyl esters) or as solvates (e.g., hydrates) to optimise the activity and/or stability of the medicament.

Preferred medicaments are an anti-inflammatory agent (for example a corticosteroid or an NSAID), an anticholinergic agent, a β_2 -adrenoreceptor agonists, an anti-infective agent (e.g. an antibiotic or an antiviral) and an immunomodulator. The medicament may be used in combination with one or more other medicaments. The medicament may be used in combination with one or more other medicaments.

combinations are based on the preferred medicament list above.

5 Preferred as a component of a medicament combination in the capsules are albuterol, salmeterol, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate and salts or solvates thereof, e.g., the sulphate of albuterol and the xinafoate of salmeterol.

10 A particularly preferred medicament combination for use in the capsules of the invention is a bronchodilator in combination with an anti-inflammatory. The bronchodilator is suitably a beta-agonist, particularly a long-acting beta-agonist
15 (LABA). Suitable bronchodilators include salbutamol (e.g., as the free base or the sulphate salt), salmeterol (e.g., as the xinafoate salt) and formoterol (eg as the fumarate salt). The anti-inflammatory is suitably an anti-inflammatory steroid.
20 Suitable anti-inflammatory compounds include a beclomethasone ester (e.g., the dipropionate), a fluticasone ester (e.g., the propionate) or budesonide or any salt or solvate thereof. One preferred combination is fluticasone propionate and salmeterol,
25 or any salt or solvate thereof (particularly the xinafoate salt). A further preferred combination is budesonide and formoterol or any salt or solvate thereof (e.g. formoterol as the fumarate salt).

30 Generally, powdered medicament particles suitable for delivery to the bronchial or alveolar region of

the lung have an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 micrometers, preferably less than 6 micrometers. Other sized particles may be used if delivery to other portions of the respiratory tract is desired, such as the nasal cavity, mouth or throat. The medicament may be delivered as a pure drug or together with excipients (carriers) which are suitable for inhalation. Suitable excipients include organic excipients such as polysaccharides (i.e. starch, cellulose and the like), lactose, glucose, mannitol, amino acids, and maltodextrins, and inorganic excipients such as calcium carbonate or sodium chloride. Lactose is a preferred excipient. The excipient may be included with the medicament via well-known methods, such as by admixing, co-precipitating and the like.

Particles of the powdered medicament and/or excipient may be produced by conventional techniques, for example by micronisation, milling or sieving. Additionally, medicament and/or excipient powders may be engineered with particular densities, size ranges, or characteristics. Particles may comprise active agents, surfactants, wall forming materials, or other components considered desirable by those of ordinary skill.

For the avoidance of doubt, the present invention
is not limited to the following embodiments
and is intended to cover all variations
thereof that are within the scope of the

claims. Moreover, the specific embodiments may be modified in accordance with the claims. Furthermore, the use of prefixes such as "generally" and the like in relation to parameters and features of the
5 invention is meant to encompass the exact parameter or feature, as well as deviations therefrom. Lastly, the inclusion of reference numerals in the claims is solely for illustration, and not to be taken as having a limiting effect on the claims.

10

Claims

1. A hand-held device (1;101) having a housing (3;103), a track (17;117) in the housing, a chain
5 (19;119) of capsules (21;121) in the track and a conveying mechanism (27,31b-f; 131,139) adapted to convey the chain along the track.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the conveying
10 mechanism has a manually-operable actuator element (29a;139) for actuating the conveying mechanism.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein the actuator
15 element is rotatably mounted to the housing, rotation thereof actuating the conveying mechanism.
4. The device of any one of the preceding claims,
wherein the conveying mechanism has a sprocket (31b-
f;131) rotatably mounted in the housing and positioned
20 to engage the capsule chain for advancement thereof in the track.
5. The device of claim 4 when appended to claim 2 or
3, wherein the sprocket is operatively coupled to the
25 actuator element.
6. The device of claim 5, wherein the conveying
mechanism consists of the sprocket and the actuator
element.

7. The device of claim 4, 5 or 6, wherein the track has a bend (35b-f;135f) and the sprocket is located at the bend.

5 8. The device of claim 4, wherein the sprocket is one of a plurality of sprockets (35b-f) of the conveying mechanism, each rotatably mounted in the housing and positioned to engage the capsule chain for advancement thereof in the track.

10

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the track has a plurality of bends (35b-f) and each sprocket is located at a different bend.

15 10. The device of claim 9, wherein there is a sprocket for each bend in the track.

11. The device of claim 7, 9 or 10, wherein the or each sprocket is located on the inside of the
20 associated track bend.

12. The device of claim 2 or any claim appendant thereon, wherein the conveying mechanism has a drive mechanism (29a-f) adapted to impart drive to the
25 capsule chain in response to operation of the actuator element.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein the drive mechanism has a drive wheel train (27).

30

14. The device of claim 13 when appended to claim 8,
wherein the drive wheel train has a plurality of
wheels (29b-f) rotatably mounted in the housing, each
wheel operatively coupled to a different sprocket
5 whereby rotation of the wheels causes rotation of the
associated sprockets.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein each sprocket is
mounted on the associated wheel for rotation
10 therewith.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the sprocket and
wheel of each associated pair are co-axially mounted
in the housing.

15 17. The device of claim 16, wherein each sprocket has
a spindle (33b-f), each spindle being mounted on the
associated wheel at its axis of rotation.

20 18. The device of any one of claims 13 to 17, wherein
at least one predetermined wheel (29b) of the drive
wheel train is in engagement with the actuator element
which is manually movable by a user of the device and
wherein movement of the actuator element causes
25 rotation of the at least one predetermined wheel to
drive the drive wheel train.

~~19. The device of any one of claims 13 to 18, wherein~~
~~the drive wheel train is a chain drive, and the~~
~~actuator element is a chain sprocket, and the~~

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the gear wheels are spur gear wheels.

21. The device of any one of the preceding claims,
5 wherein the capsules in the chain have elongate bodies (26) and are arranged upright in the track in side-by-side relation.

22. The device of claim 21, wherein the capsules are
10 generally cylindrical.

23. The device of any one of the preceding claims in which the capsules contain a powder product.

15 24. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the capsules contain a medicament.

25. The device of claims 23 and 24, wherein the capsules each contain a unit dose of a medicament
20 powder.

26. The device of any one of the preceding claims in which the capsules are linked together.

25 27. The device of any one of the preceding claims in which the track is endless.

28. The device of claim 27 in which the chain is endless.
30

29. The device of any one of the preceding claims in which the track has at least one fold section (23;123) to provide the track with a space-saving configuration.

5

30. The device of claim 29 when appended directly or indirectly on claim 7, wherein the bend is at the inside of the fold section.

10

31. The device of any one of the preceding claims adapted for use as a component part of an inhalation device for delivering medicament to a patient.

15

32. An inhalation device for delivering medicament to a patient incorporating the hand-held device of any one of the preceding claims.

20

33. A hand-held device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, FIGURES 1 to 6 or FIGURES 7 to 14 of the accompanying drawings.

A Hand-Held Capsule Device

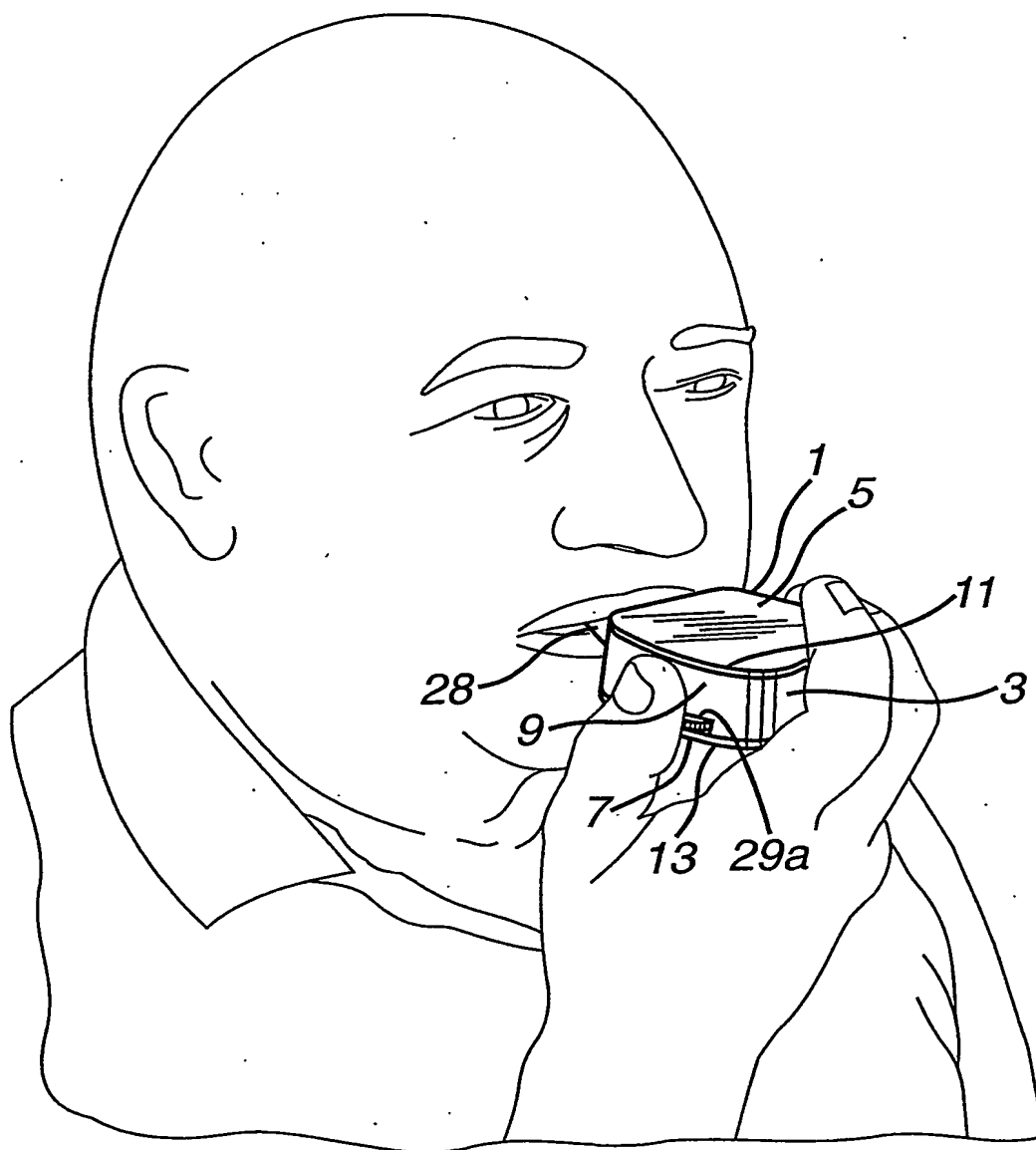
Abstract

5 A hand-held device (1;101) has a housing (3;103),
a track (17;117) in the housing, a chain (19;119) of
capsules (21;121) in the track and a conveying
mechanism (27,31b-f; 131,139) adapted to convey the
chain along the track. The capsules may contain a
10 medicament powder.

(FIG. 3)

15

FIG. 1



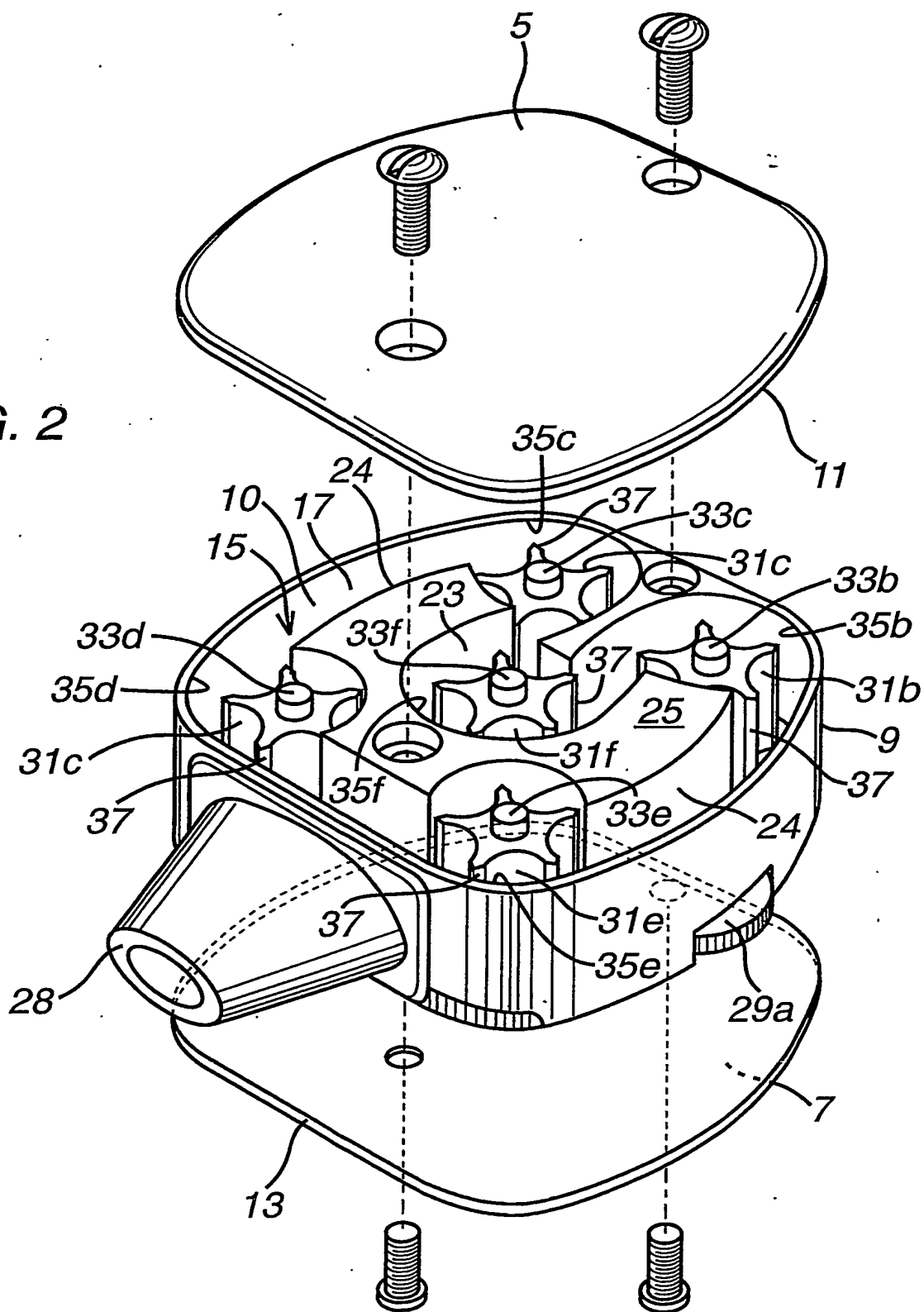


FIG. 3

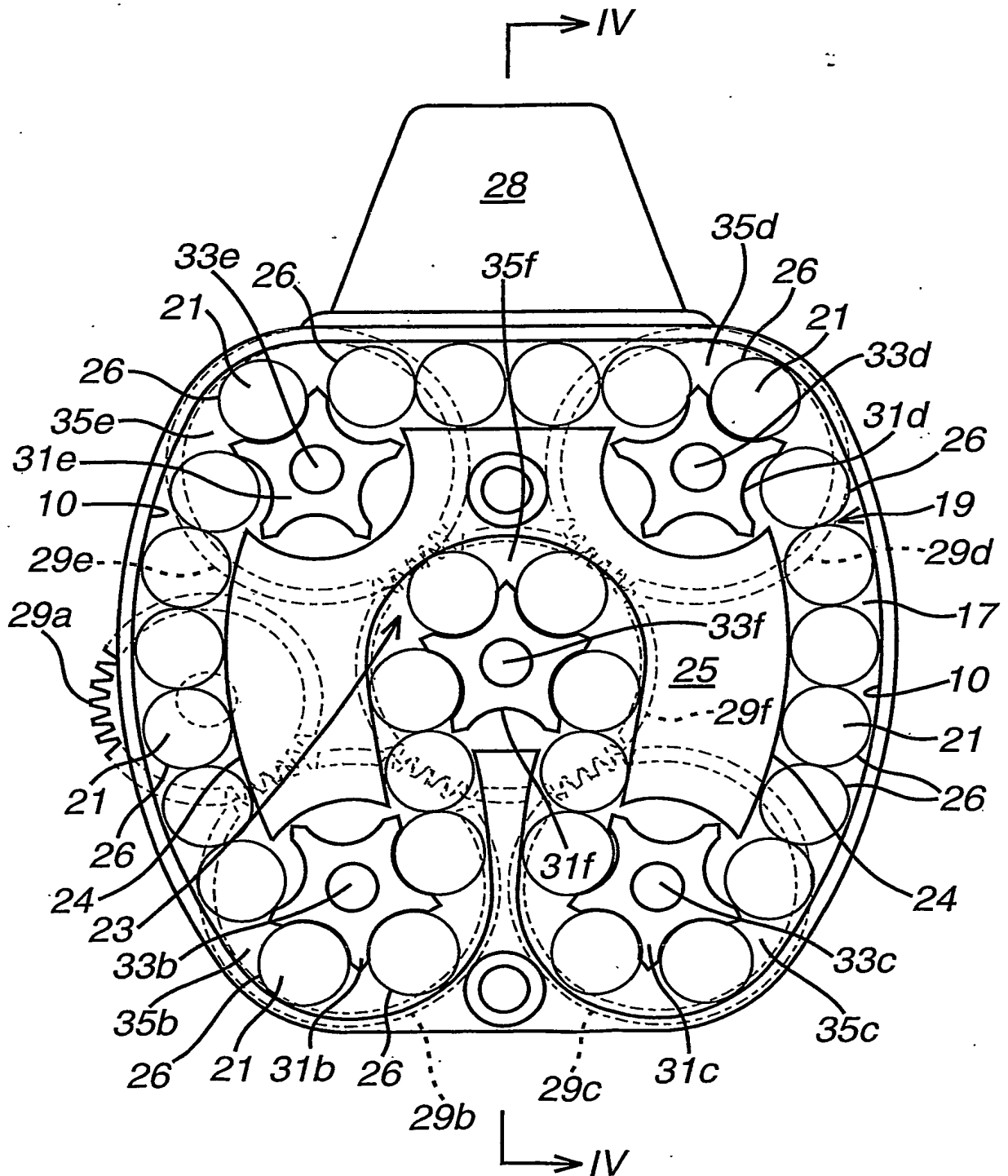


FIG. 4

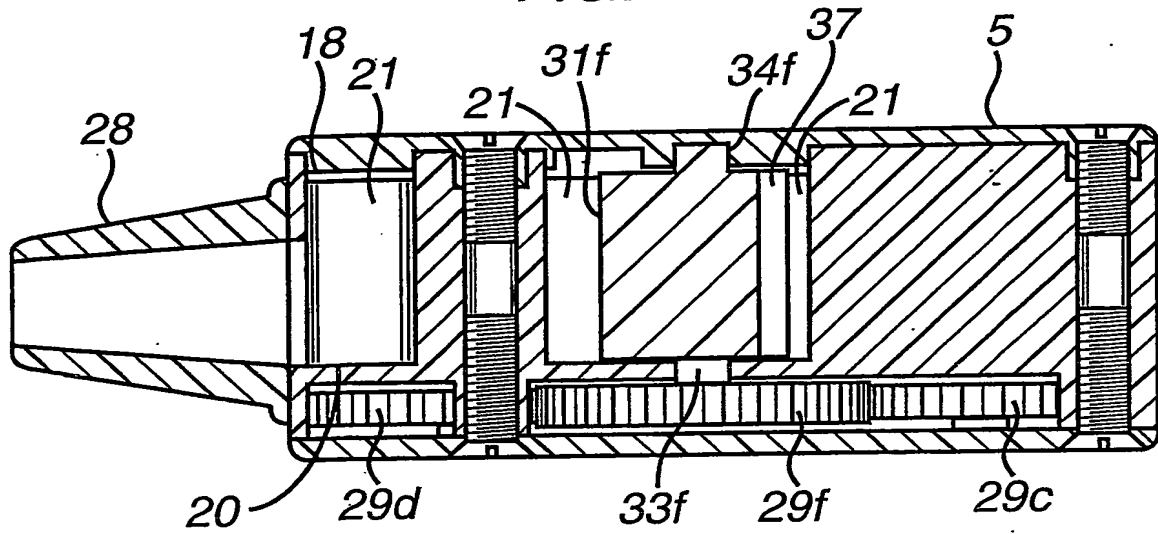


FIG. 5

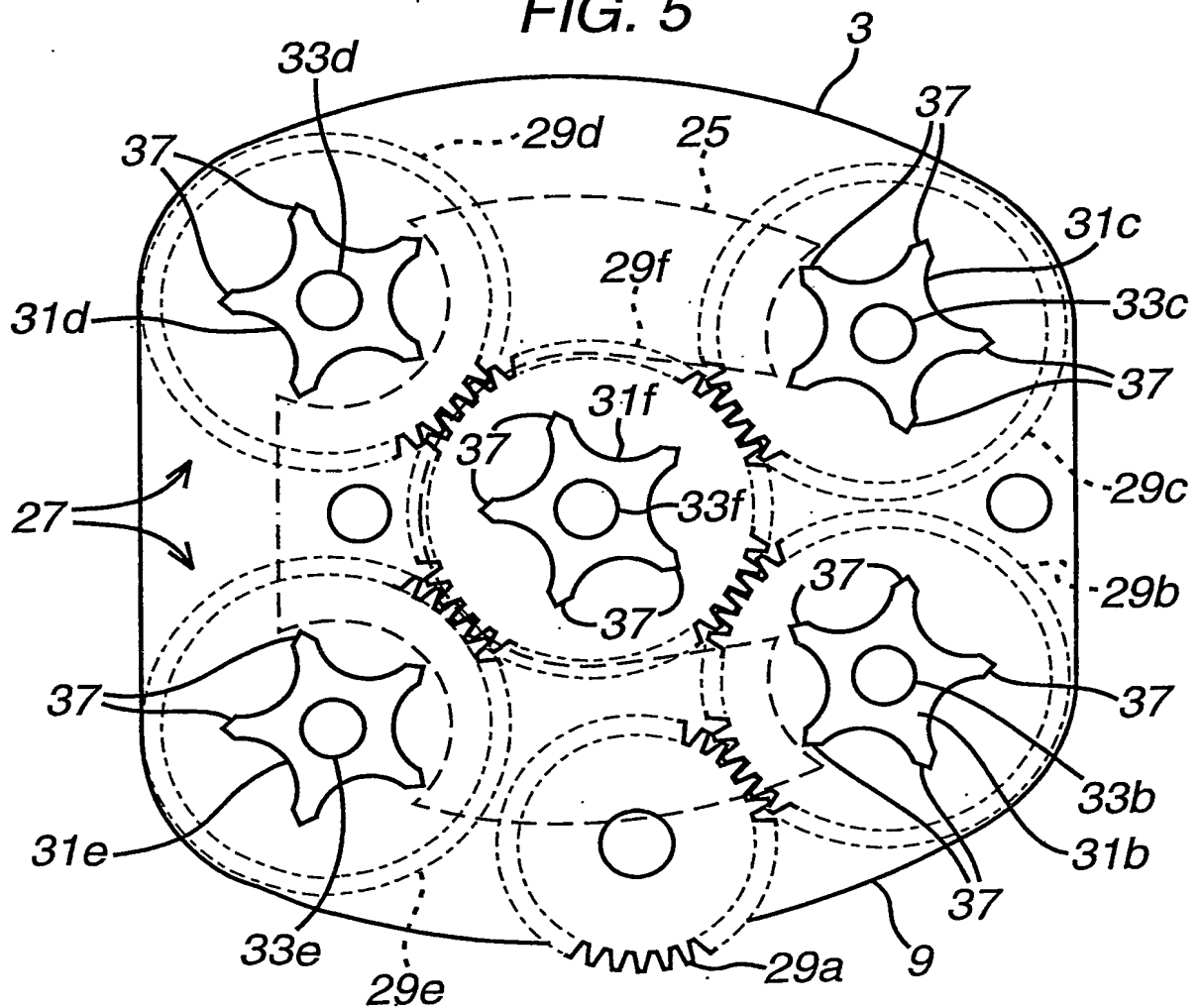


FIG. 6A

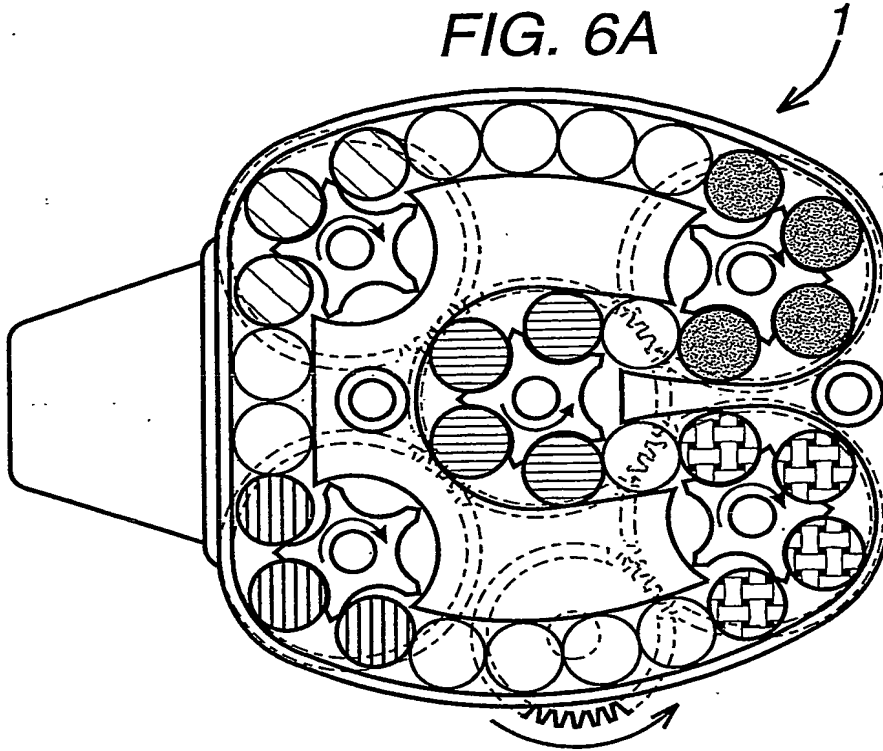


FIG. 6B

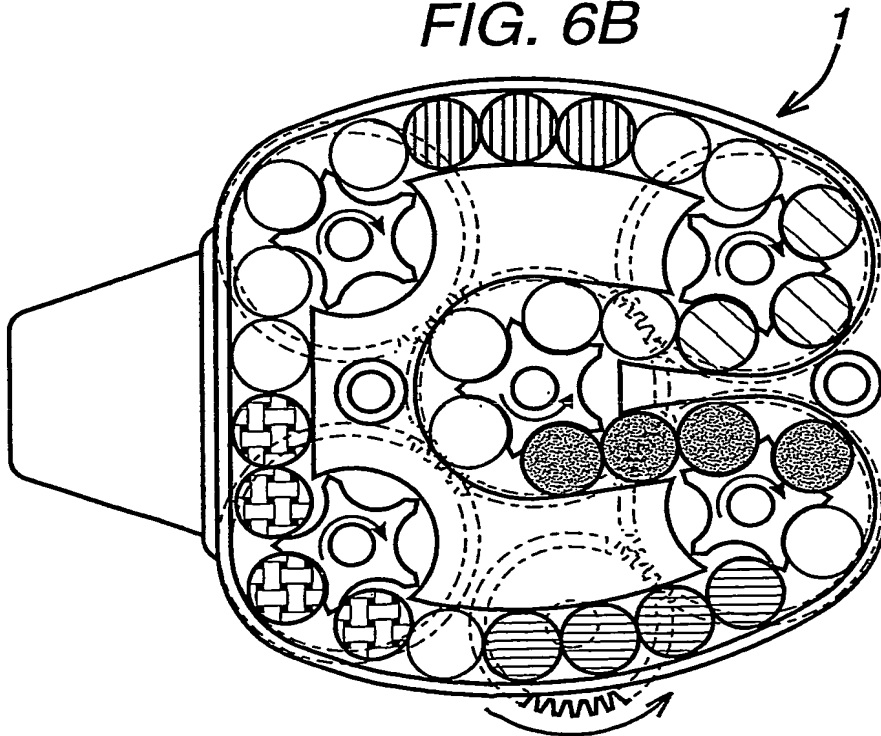


FIG. 6C

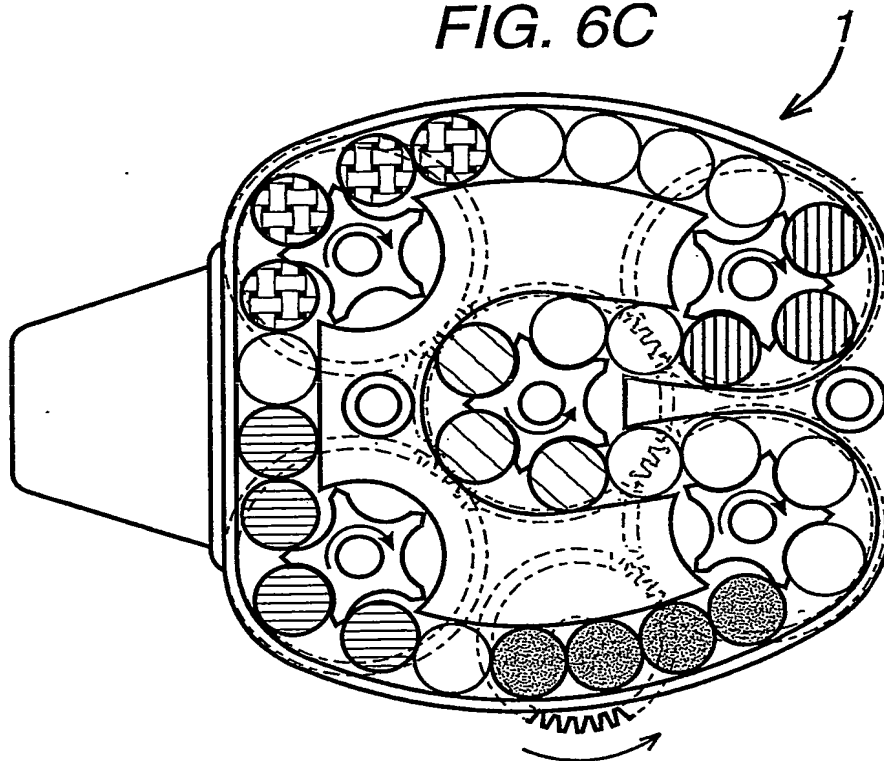


FIG. 6D

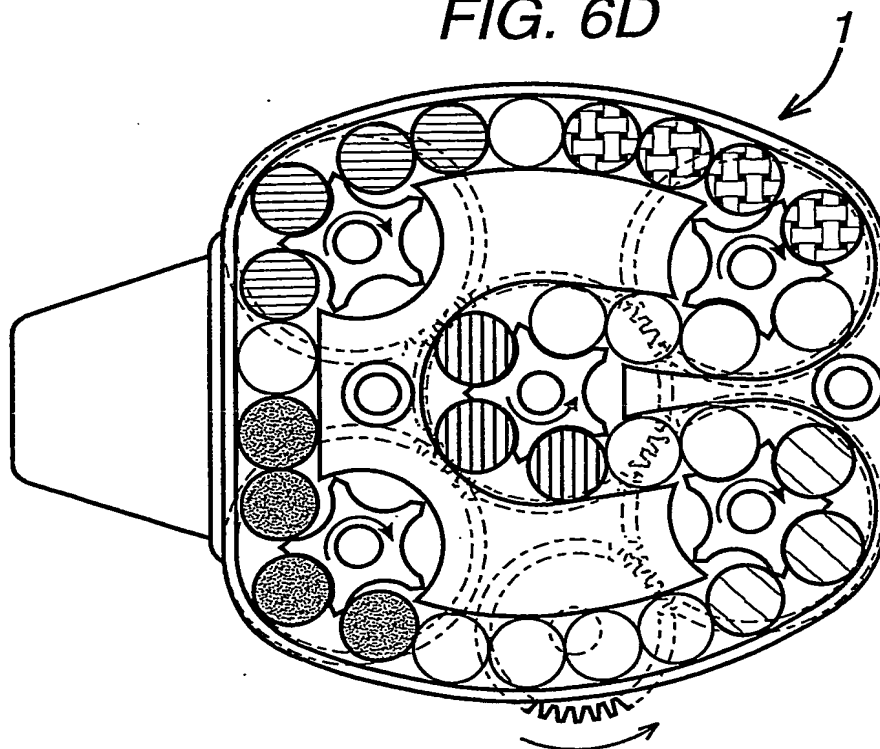


FIG. 6E

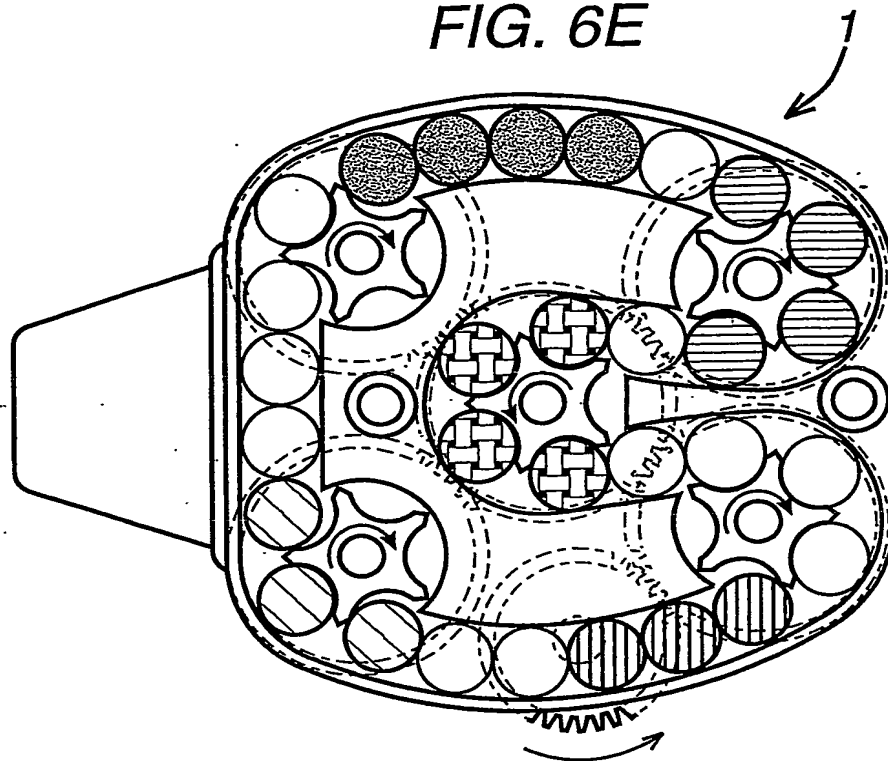


FIG. 6F

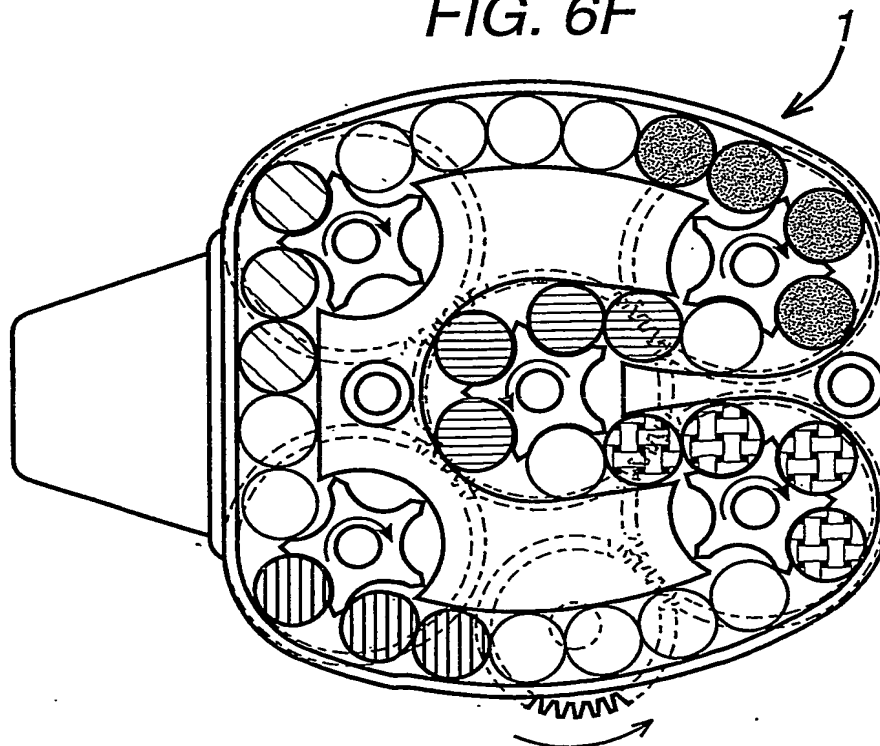
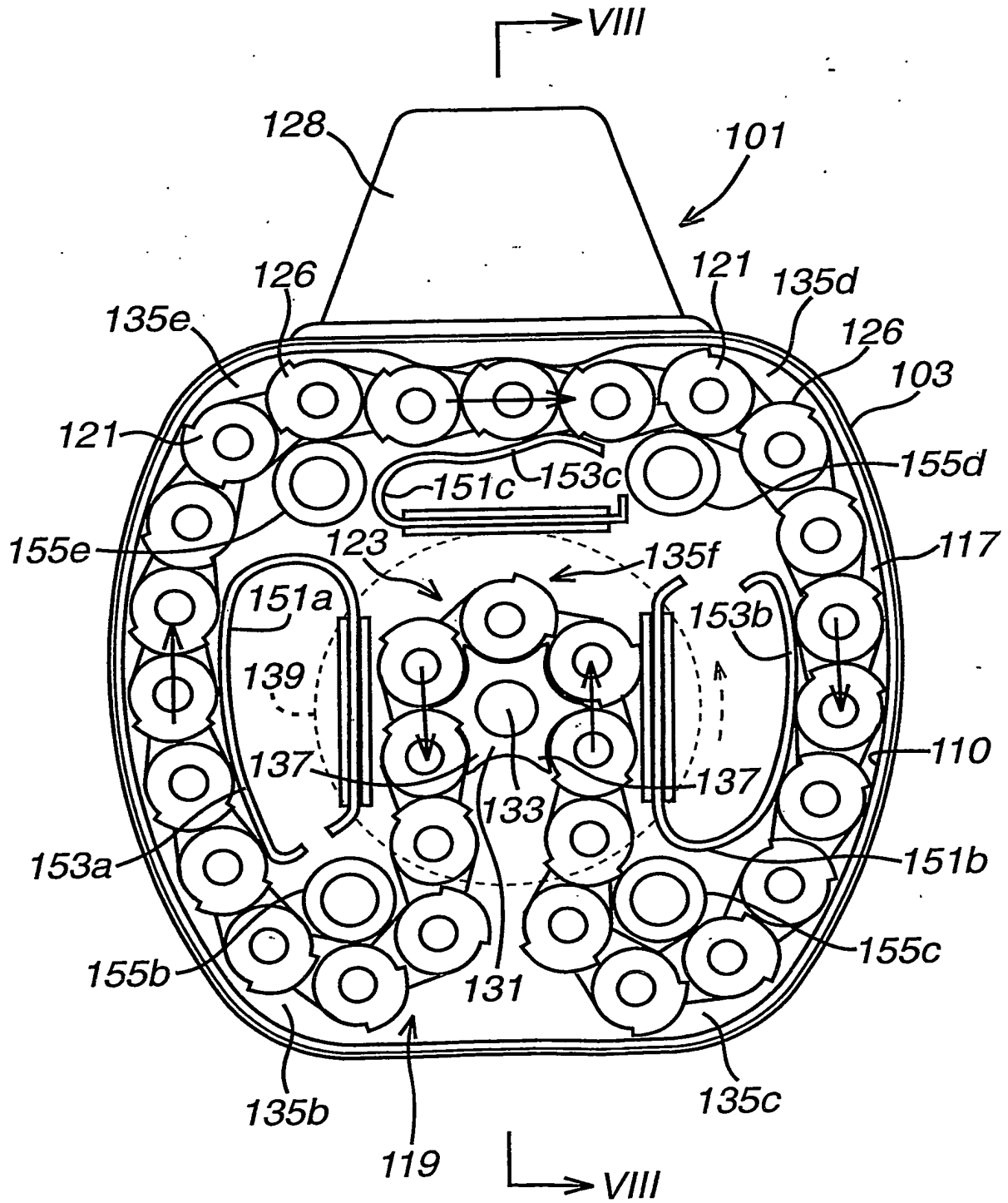


FIG. 7



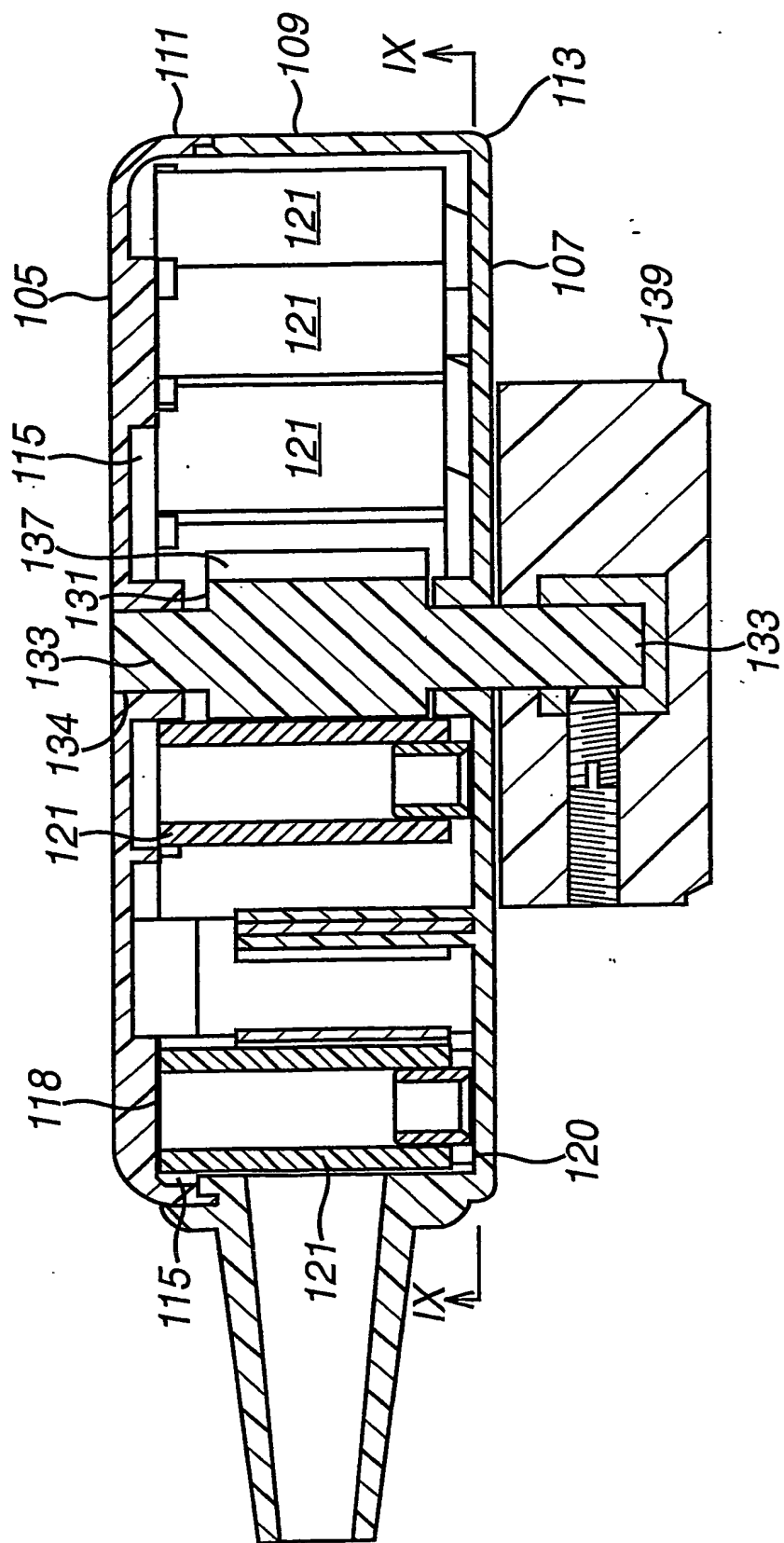


FIG. 8

FIG. 9

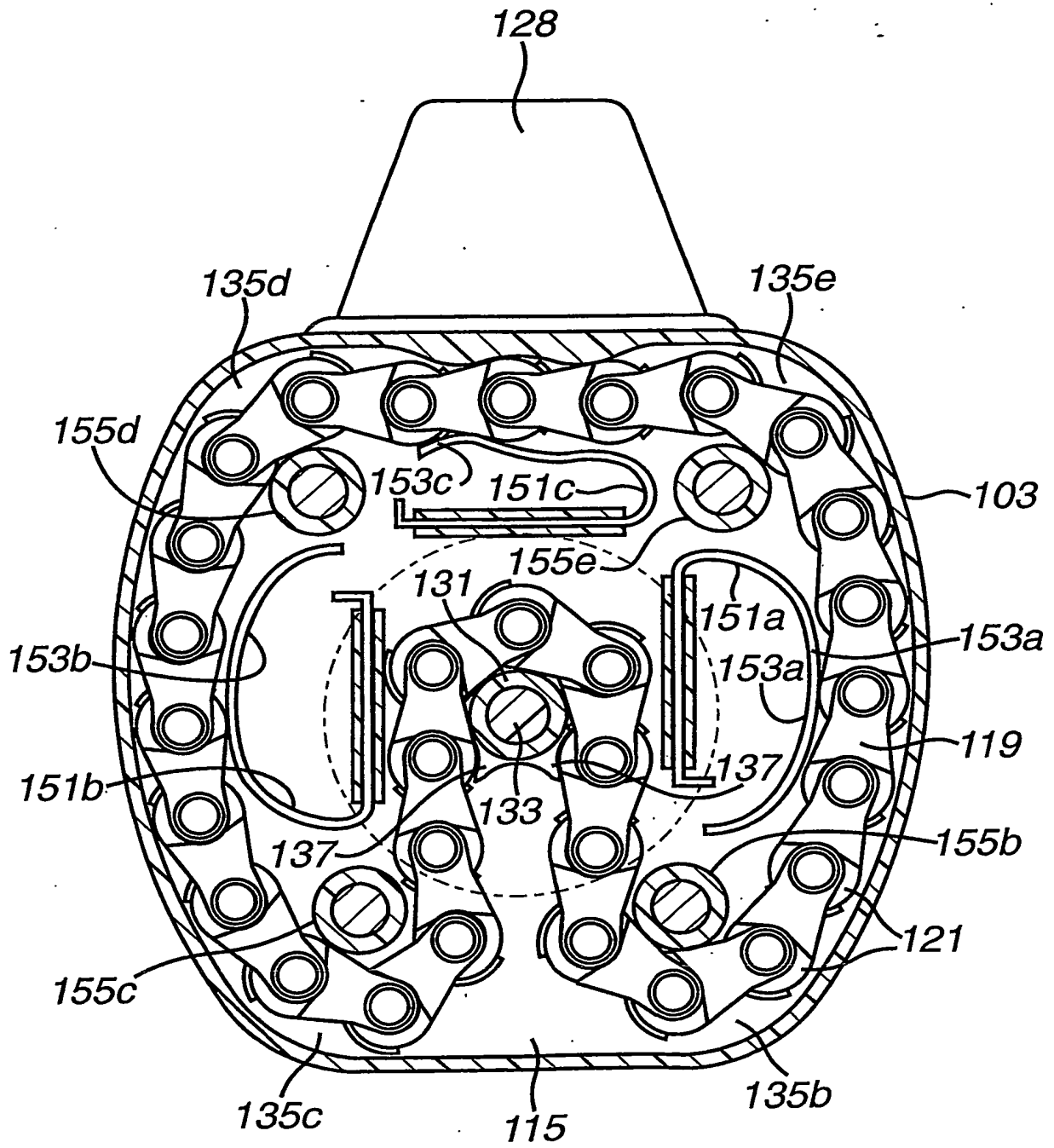


FIG. 10

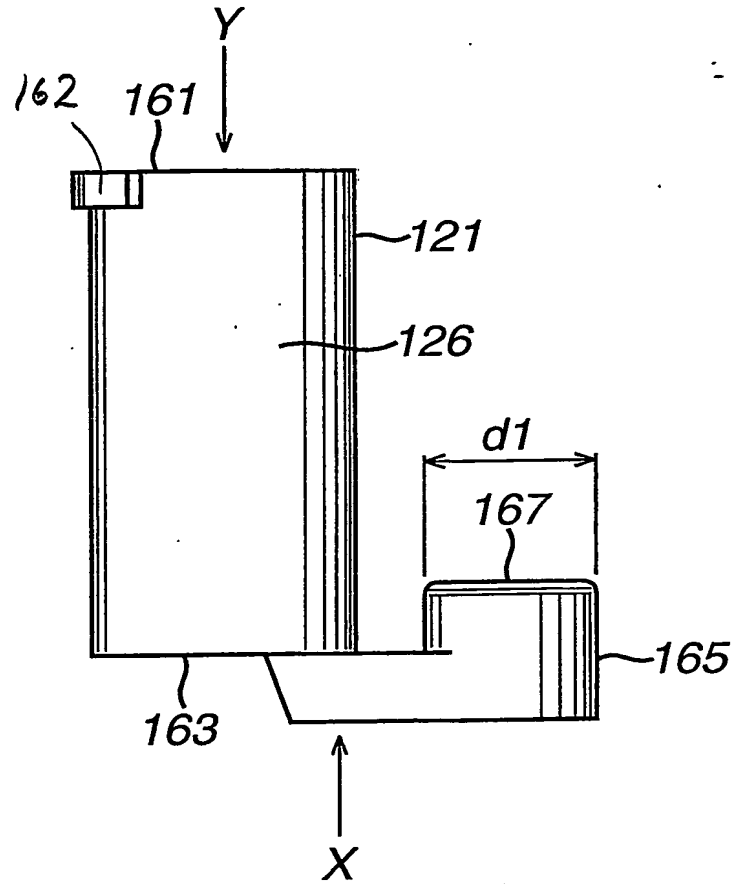


FIG. 11

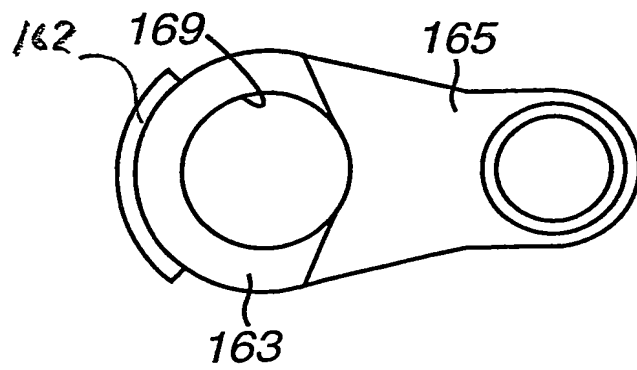


FIG. 12

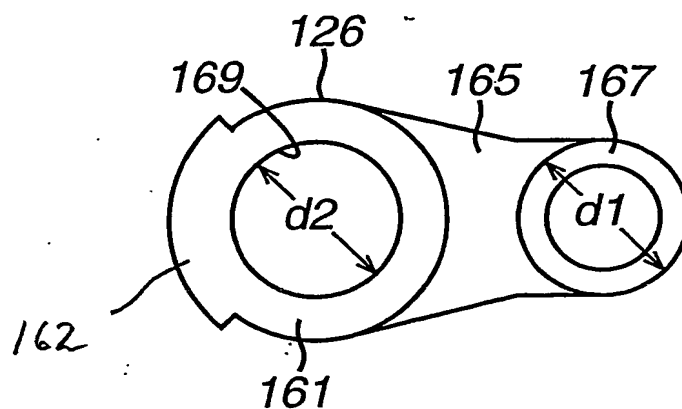


FIG. 13

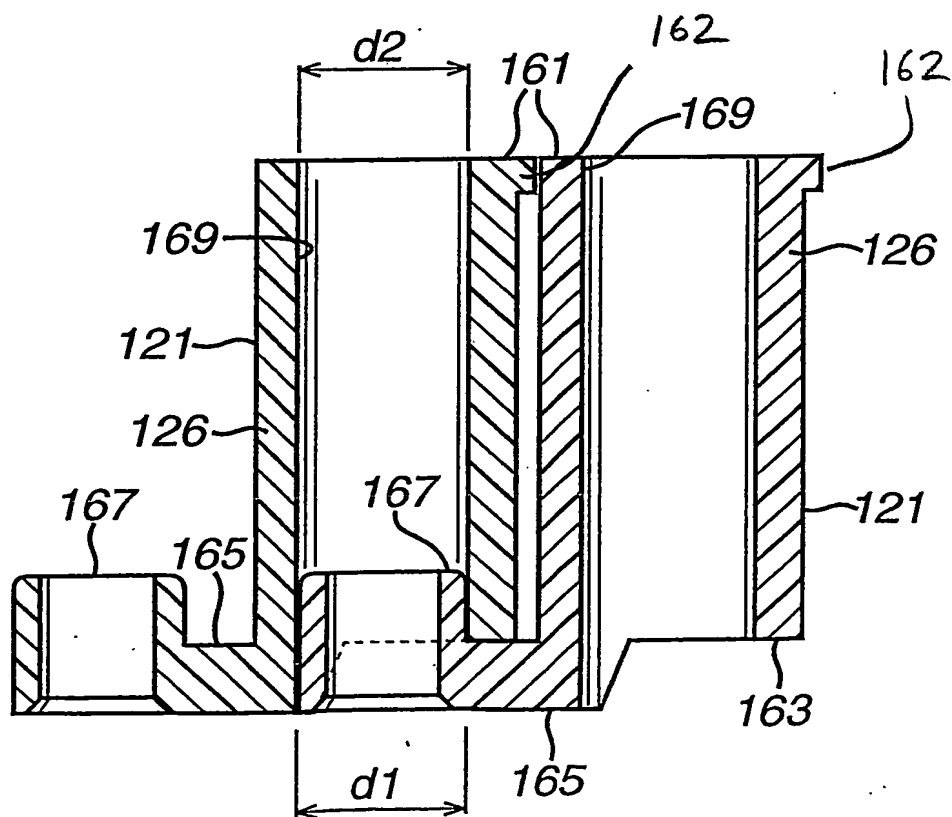


FIG. 14A

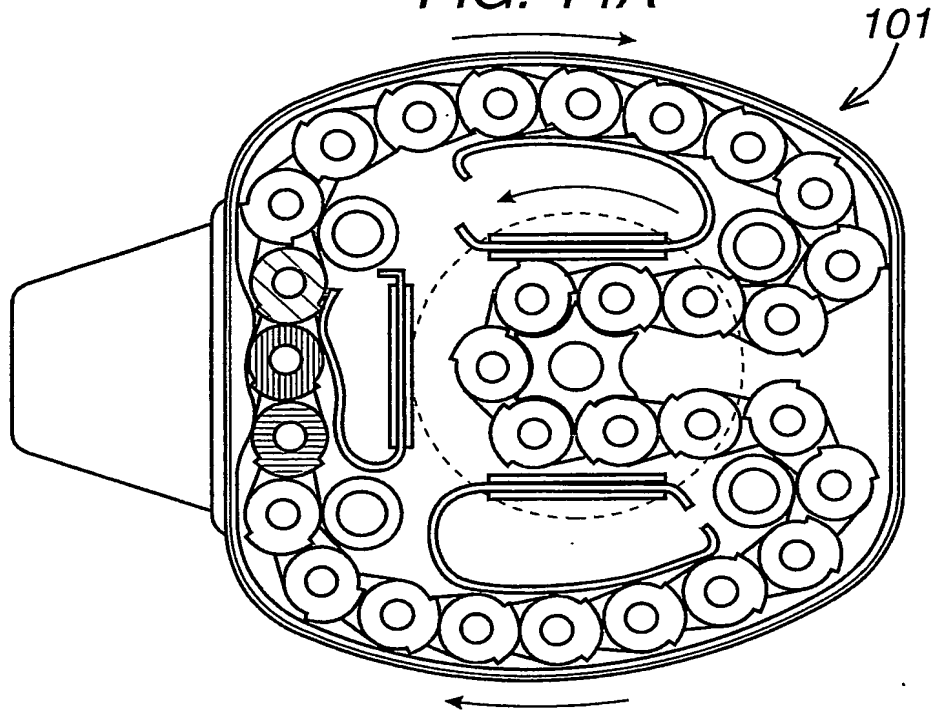


FIG. 14B

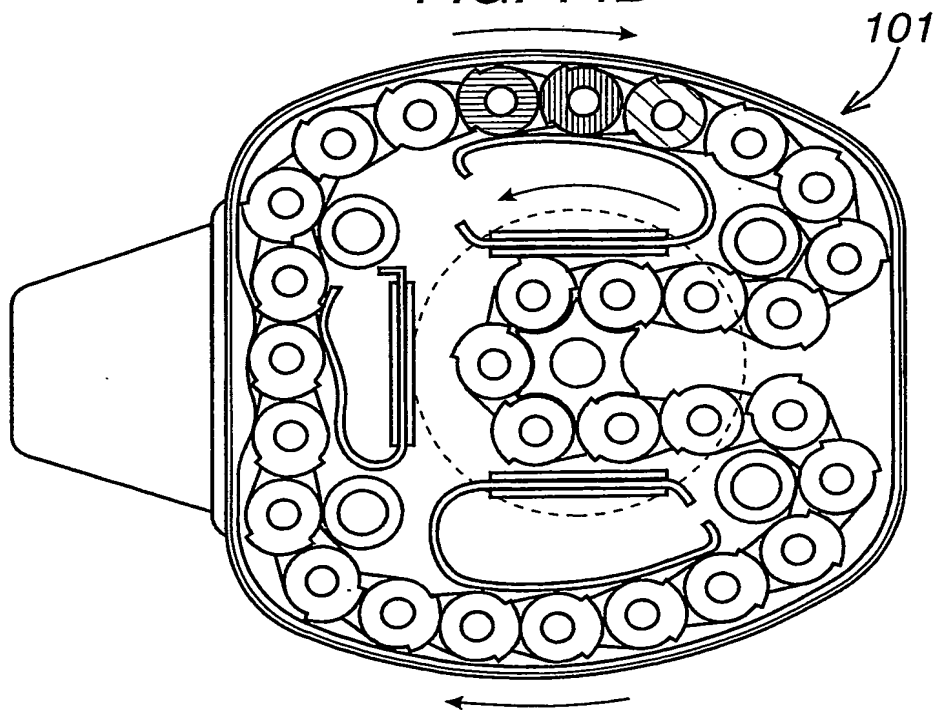


FIG. 14C

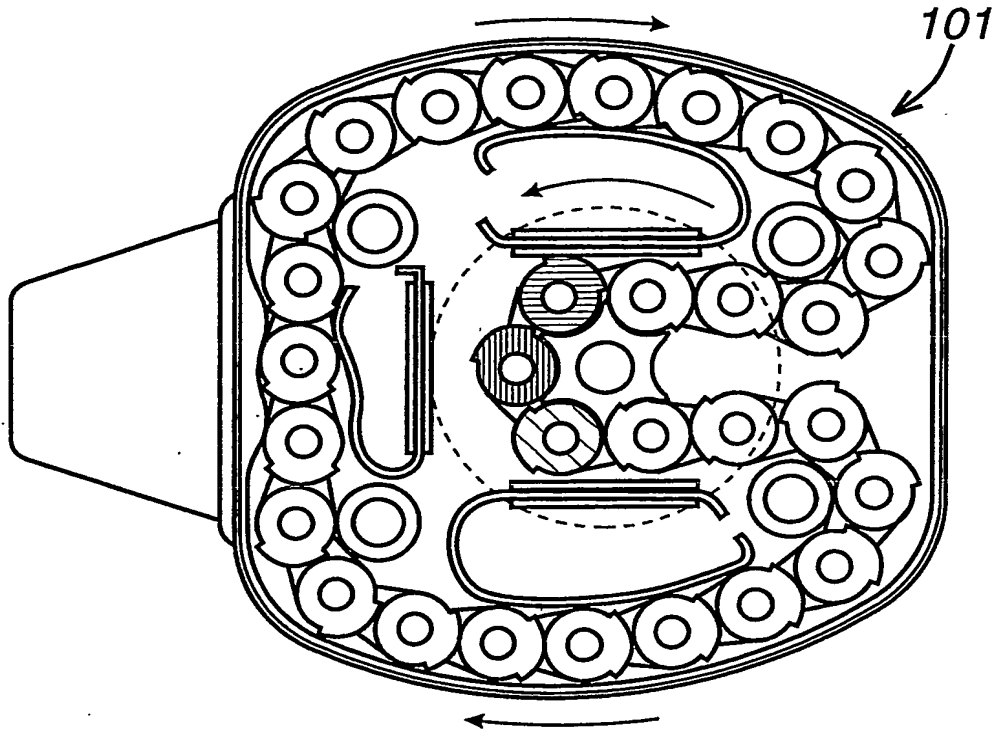


FIG. 14D

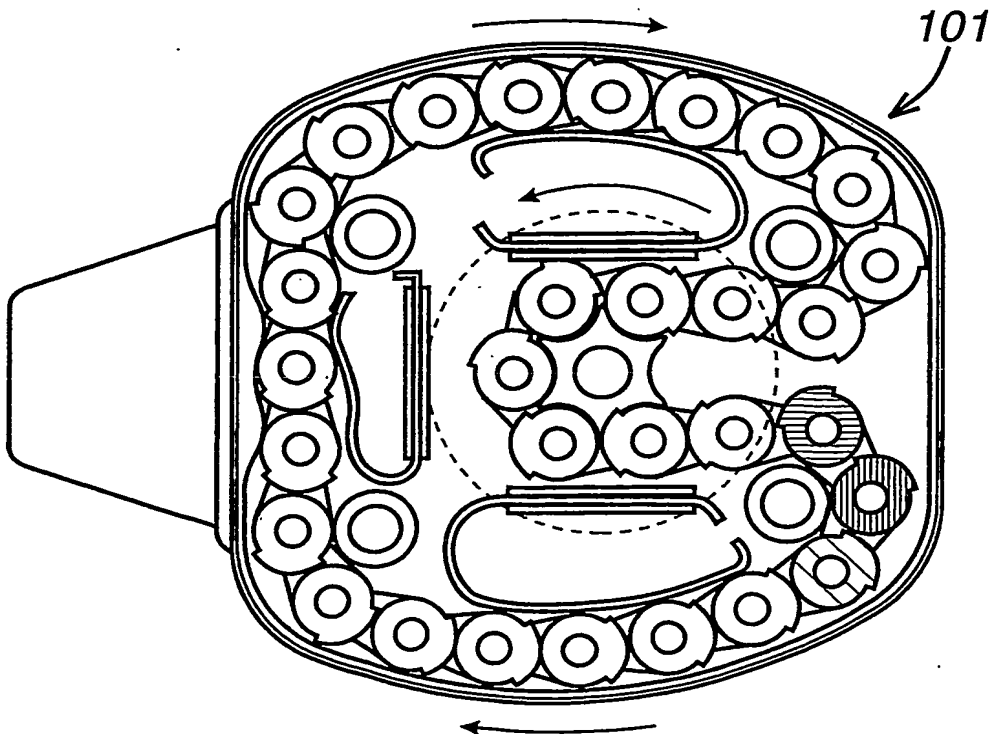
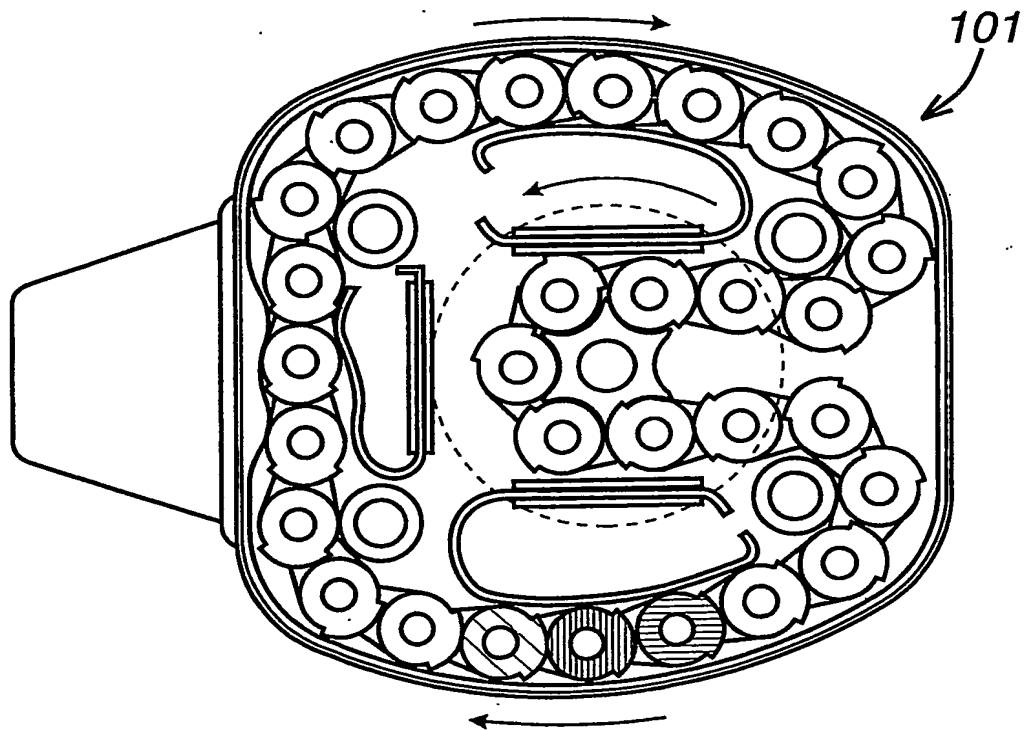


FIG. 14E



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